

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the Title of the Invention has been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

The objection to the Specification is overcome.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed. The claimed feature of monitoring whether the tracking actuator deviates from a dynamic range is illustrated in Fig. 4, operation 402. Present paragraph 30 indicates that the control unit monitors according to the comparing illustrated at operation 402. Furthermore, the claimed feature of returning the objective lens connected to the tracking actuator to a neutral point is illustrated in Fig. 4, operation 404. Present paragraph 31 indicates that the objective lens is returned to the neutral point when the tracking servo is turned off. This tracking servo off is illustrated at operation 404.

The rejection based on Yoshioka is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 1 recites monitoring whether the tracking actuator deviates from a dynamic range. In contrast, Yoshioka does not monitor deviation from a dynamic range. Instead, the reference measures vertical deviation of the focal point of the light beam from the disc surface. Yoshioka, col. 4, ln. 24-25. However, the reference does not relate the vertical deviation of the focal point to a dynamic range. The measured deviation could be within the dynamic range, or deviations outside the dynamic range may be permitted. Since the dynamic range is not a consideration, Yoshioka does not disclose this feature.

Furthermore, independent claim 1 recites monitoring based on a signal controlling the feed motor. In contrast, Yoshioka measures the focus error and compares this value at the focus error signal comparator. There is no monitoring of the signal input to the focus error signal applied to the focus actuator 30. Yoshioka, Fig. 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

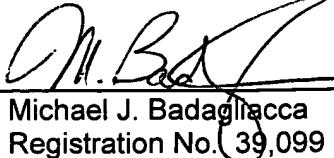
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/670,191

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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